

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1 - 68 are pending.

Claims 1 – 68 are subject to a restriction requirement.

REMARKS

Restriction has been required between Group I (Claims 1 – 8, 21 – 26, 61, 62, 66 and 68), Group II (Claims 9 – 20, 27 – 36, 63 and 64) and Group III (Claims 37- 60, 65 and 67). Applicant provisionally elects Group I (Claims 1 – 8, 21 – 26, 61, 62, 66 and 68), without prejudice and with traverse.

Applicant traverses the present restriction requirement for at least the following reasons. Applicant respectfully brings to the Examiner's attention, MPEP §803, wherein it states that "[i]f the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions." Applicant respectfully submits that examination of the entire application can be made without a serious burden and, therefore, should be examined on the merits even if it claims independent and distinct inventions.

CONCLUSION

Wherefore, Applicant believes he has addressed all outstanding grounds raised by the Examiner and respectfully submits the present case is in condition for allowance, early notification of which is earnestly solicited.